



Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot talks to reporters after she and first lady Amy Eshleman early voted in the Nov. 8 midterm election at NEIU El Centro, Nov. 3, 2022 in Chicago.

Associated Press

On the ballot in 2023: Southern governors, big-city mayors

By MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot will be asking voters for a second term leading one of the nation's biggest cities. Republicans will try to take full control of the Virginia Legislature. Governors' mansions are up for election in Louisiana and Mississippi, and a Democratic governor in red-state Kentucky will try to hang

on for another term.

While much of the political focus in 2023 is on the emerging presidential race, voters in some states will be weighing in on lower-profile contests that will nonetheless provide fresh insight into their priorities and views on the direction of the country.

Continued on Page 2

Tourist bus stopping at Tres Trapi causes concern for nature in the area



FIFA Football for Schools project working with neighborhood centers and CEDE Aruba



***French-Caribbean cuisine**
***Outdoor seating**
***Live music**
Mon - Fri by MARISELA
Thur - Sat by Jairo Saxophone

***Early bird special from 5 till 7**
3 course menu including a glass of wine \$32

Papillon
RESTAURANT

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Live Music Fri - Sat & Sun

Open Everyday 5PM - 11PM

Spectacular setting - all tables over the water
Bar snacks & drinks available
Reservations recommended

583-2666
www.pinchosaruba.com
reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com

Follow Us

On the ballot in 2023: Southern governors, big-city mayors

Continued from Front

Republicans are expected to try to tie Kentucky Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear to President Joe Biden and other national Democrats who tend to be more liberal. Beshear, making his re-election bid in a state that heavily favors Republicans, gently distanced himself from Biden in a recent interview with The Associated Press, saying, "This race isn't going to be about the White House."

"It's going to be what's going on in the homes of each and every Kentuckian," Beshear said. "And I think this last set of elections showed that if you want to be governor, people expect you to have a plan. People expect you to talk to them and not simply use some national talking points."

State GOP spokesperson Sean Southard in a statement earlier this month said the party feels that the "fundamentals are strong for a Republican candidate to defeat him" once the party has a nominee.

About a dozen Republicans have said they are running, including former U.N. Ambassador Kelly Craft, state Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who has already received former President Donald Trump's endorsement.

The Republican Governors Association did not make someone available for an interview but noted in a statement that the only incumbent governor to lose in 2022 was a Democrat, Steve Sisolak of Nevada, "and the RGA is ready to do it again in 2023."

"Democrat Andy Beshear does not align with Kentucky's values, and we know voters are eager for Republican leadership in Frankfort," RGA spokesperson Joanna Rodriguez said. New Jersey Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy, who is taking over as chair of the Democratic Governors Association in 2023, said the group's "highest priority, far and away, is to defend and reelect" Beshear.



Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot speaks during a press conference in the Greektown neighborhood, of Chicago, Sept. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

The group made a controversial but ultimately successful move in 2022 to boost far-right Republican candidates in several states' GOP races, allowing Democratic candidates to face easier-to-beat opponents in the general election.

Murphy would not rule out taking similar steps in 2023, saying: "As long as it is ethical and legal, nothing is off the table."

His party faces a tougher battle in conservative Louisiana, where moderate Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards is term-limited. It's unclear who will emerge as a Democratic candidate, but a large pool of GOP candidates is expected to jump into the race. One of the highest-profile Republicans considering a bid is U.S. Sen. John Kennedy.

In Mississippi, Republican

Gov. Tate Reeves will seek a second term. He recently signed into law the state's largest-ever tax cut and plans to push for a full elimination of the state's income tax in 2023. His re-election bid may be complicated, however, by lingering frustrations over the crumbling water system in the capital city of Jackson, which partially failed in August and left the majority-Black city of about 150,000 people waiting in lines for water to drink, bathe, cook and flush toilets.

In Democratic-leaning Virginia, all 140 seats in the politically divided General Assembly will be on the ballot. Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who has been privately weighing a 2024 presidential bid, has pledged to help his party win full control of the legislature, though his plans to

further limit abortions in the state could galvanize Democratic voters.

Republicans would need to hold their majority in the House of Delegates and, pending the outcome of a January special election, pick up as many as three seats for an outright Senate majority.

In New Jersey, a Democrat-led state where Republicans have been making steady gains in recent years, all 120 seats in the state legislature will be on the ballot, giving the GOP a chance to regain control for the first time in two decades. Democrats currently control 24 of 40 seats in the state Senate and 46 of 80 Assembly seats.

Intraparty differences will be the main feature of the biggest mayoral races of 2023, showcasing the divides between progressives

and moderates in Democratic strongholds.

In Chicago, more than a half-dozen candidates are trying to oust Lightfoot. A Feb. 28 election will go to an April runoff if no candidate wins a majority in the officially nonpartisan election.

Lightfoot became the city's first Black woman and first openly gay person to lead Chicago when she was elected in 2019. She first ran for office as a progressive and an outsider who would take on corruption at City Hall, but her first years in office also included a global pandemic and protests against police brutality.

Lightfoot's opponents and other critics say her approach to governing has been too confrontational. She has said the criticism is due mostly to sexism and racism but has started to address it in her campaign, saying in her first campaign ad: "I'm only human. And I guess sometimes it shows. But just because somebody may not always like my delivery doesn't mean we're not delivering."

Crime, which has played a substantial role in mayoral and gubernatorial elections around the country over the past two years, will be a major issue. While homicides have been down in Chicago in 2022 compared with previous years, the number is still higher than when Lightfoot took office. Concerns have grown about carjackings, shootings and other violence, particularly near downtown and other business and tourist areas.

Crime concerns are also dominating the mayoral race in Philadelphia, another Democratic stronghold. Mayor Jim Kenney is term-limited, and a crowded field is shaping up amid a surge of gun violence and a shortage of police officers. So far the Democratic primary field includes five former council members and the city controller, all of whom resigned their seats to run, along with at least one state lawmaker. No Republican has announced yet. □

Southwest Airlines flight cancellations continue to snowball

By **DAVID KOENIG** and
HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Travelers who counted on Southwest Airlines to get them home suffered another wave of canceled flights Wednesday, and pressure grew on the federal government to help customers get reimbursed for unexpected expenses they incurred because of the airline's meltdown.

Exhausted Southwest travelers tried finding seats on other airlines or renting cars to get to their destination, but many remained stranded. The airline's CEO said it could be next week before the flight schedule returns to normal.

Adontis Barber, a 34-year-old jazz pianist from Kansas City, Missouri, had camped out in the city's airport since his Southwest flight was canceled Saturday and wondered if he would ever get to a New Year's gig in Washington, D.C.

"I give up," he said. "I'm starting to feel homeless." By early afternoon on the East Coast, about 90% of all canceled flights Wednesday in the U.S. were on



A traveler wades through the field of unclaimed bags at the Southwest Airlines luggage carousels at Denver International Airport, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, in Denver.

Associated Press

Southwest, according to the FlightAware tracking service.

Other airlines recovered from ferocious winter storms that hit large swaths of the country over the weekend, but not Southwest, which scrubbed 2,500 flights Wednesday and 2,300 more on Thursday.

The Dallas airline was un-

done by a combination of factors including an antiquated crew-scheduling system and a network design that allows cancellations in one region to cascade throughout the country rapidly. Those weaknesses are not new they helped cause a similar failure by Southwest in October 2021.

The federal government is now investigating what happened at Southwest, which carries more passengers within the United States than any other airline.

In a video that Southwest posted late Tuesday, CEO Robert Jordan said Southwest would operate a reduced schedule for several days but hoped to

be "back on track before next week." He said Southwest's tools for recovering from disruptions work "99% of the time, but clearly we need to double down" on upgrading systems to avoid a repeat of this week.

"We have some real work to do in making this right," said Jordan, a 34-year Southwest veteran who became CEO in February. "For now, I want you to know that we are committed to that."

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who has criticized airlines for previous disruptions, said that "meltdown" was the only word he could think of to describe this week's events at Southwest.

He noted that while cancellations across the rest of the industry declined to about 4% of scheduled flights, they remained above 60% at Southwest.

From the high rate of cancellations to customers' inability to reach Southwest on the phone, the airline's performance has been unacceptable, Buttigieg said. He vowed to hold the airline accountable and push it to reimburse travelers. □

U.S. marks anniversary of Paul Whelan's detention in Russia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is marking the four-year anniversary of the detention in Russia of American businessman Paul Whelan, whose continued imprisonment is one of several major irritants in tattered relations between Washington and Moscow.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement Wednesday that securing Whelan's release remains a top administration priority. U.S. officials had hoped to include Whelan in a prisoner swap earlier this month in which they traded detained WNBA star Brittney Griner for a convicted Russian arms dealer, Viktor Bout. The administration considers Whelan, like Griner, to have been wrongfully detained.

Blinken said Whelan and

his family are "suffering through an unfathomable ordeal" and he again condemned the American's conviction, which was based on secret evidence, and 16-year prison sentence.

"His detention remains unacceptable, and we continue to press for his immediate release at every opportunity," Blinken said. "Our efforts to secure Paul's release will not cease until he is back home with his family where he belongs."

Whelan, a Michigan corporate security executive, is jailed in Russia on espionage charges that his family and the U.S. government have said are baseless. U.S. officials said Russia refused to consider including Whelan in the Griner deal, calling it a "one or none" decision.

"Paul and the Whelan family recently showed the entire country the meaning of generosity of spirit in celebrating a fellow American's return while Russia continues its deplorable treatment of Paul as a bargaining chip," said President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan.

The Whelan family supported the exchange that freed Griner, but expressed fears that Whelan would not be released for years. His brother, David Whelan, said when the swap was announced, "I think we all realize that the math is not going to work out for Paul to come home anytime soon, unless the U.S. government is able to find concessions." Paul Whelan, 52, was sentenced in 2020.

In a statement Wednesday,



Paul Whelan, a former U.S. marine who was arrested for alleged spying, listens to the verdict in a courtroom at the Moscow City Court in Moscow, Russia, June 15, 2020.

Associated Press

David Whelan said, "Today is the 1,461st day that Paul has been held hostage by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities entrapped him four years ago today. How do you mark such an awful milestone when there

is no resolution in sight?" The anniversary, he said "is both awful and mundane, just another day that Paul has to suffer in a Russian labor colony for being in the wrong place at the wrong time." □

Judge orders another long prison term in Gov. Whitmer plot

By **JOEY CAPPELLETTI** and **COREY WILLIAMS**

Associated Press/Report for America

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)

— A Delaware trucker described as an architect of the conspiracy to kidnap Michigan's governor was sentenced Wednesday to more than 19 years in prison — the longest term yet given to anyone convicted in the plot.

Prosecutors had sought a life sentence for Barry Croft Jr., 47, who was the fourth and final federal defendant to learn his fate. Judge Robert J. Jonker described him as "the idea guy" behind the plot and called him "a very convincing communicator" for people who were open to his views.

"However twisted or irrational it may seem to many of us, it did resonate to the targeted audience," the judge said. "That is as important a method of leadership as being out in the field telling people where to go." Defense attorney Joshua Blanchard said he would appeal the sentence.

Croft and Adam Fox were convicted in August of conspiracy charges in Grand Rapids. Croft also was found guilty of possessing an unregistered explosive.



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer addresses the media after signing the final piece of a \$76 billion state budget into law, July 20, 2022, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Fox, 39, was sentenced Tuesday to 16 years behind bars. The government also sought a life sentence for him. Both men were accused of hatching a stunning plot to abduct Gov. Gretchen Whitmer from her vacation home just before the 2020 presidential election. The conspirators were furious over tough COVID-19 restrictions that Whitmer and officials in other states had put in place during the early months of the pandemic, as well as perceived threats to gun

ownership. Whitmer was not physically harmed. The FBI was secretly embedded in the group and made 14 arrests. "We're talking about a conspiracy to physically kidnap the governor, potentially assassinate her as well. It doesn't get much more serious than that," Jonker said before announcing Croft's sentence. "The group had a lot of guns. This group had all kinds of material ready to go to achieve their end." Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils

Kessler called Croft the "spiritual leader" of the group of conspirators, comparing his role to that of "some sheikh in ISIS." "He essentially was putting himself as a role of a prophet ... there are people who believe this sort of rhetoric, and he used it," Kessler told the judge. "This man is fully radicalized. He hasn't changed his viewpoint," Kessler added. "He's not admitting the ideas are wrong because he still holds them. This whole thing was Mr. Croft's

idea." Croft regularly wore the type of tricorne hat common during the American Revolution and had tattoos on his arms symbolizing resistance — "Expect Us" — as he traveled to Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan to meet with like-minded extremists.

A different jury in Grand Rapids couldn't reach a verdict on the pair at the first trial last spring but acquitted two other men.

The abduction was meant to be the beginning of a "reign of terror," Kessler said in court documents. Croft's plan called for riots, "torching" government officials in their sleep and setting off violence across the country. A key piece of evidence: Croft, Fox and others traveled to see Whitmer's vacation home in northern Michigan, with undercover agents and informants inside the cabal. At one point, Croft told allies: "I don't like seeing anybody get killed either.

But you don't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs, you know what I mean?"

Croft's attorney tried to soften his client's role. In a court filing, Blanchard said his client did not actually have authority over others and often frustrated them because he "just kept talking." □

Paul Pelosi attack: Suspect enters not-guilty plea

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The man who allegedly broke into U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home and

beat her 82-year-old husband in October pleaded not guilty Wednesday to six charges, including at-

tempted murder, prosecutors said.

The suspect, David DePape, had planned to kidnap the speaker who was in Washington at the time of the attack when he broke into the couple's San Francisco home on Oct. 28, authorities said. Instead, the 42-year-old defendant severely beat her husband Paul Pelosi with a hammer in an attack that was witnessed by two police officers and shocked the political world.

Paul Pelosi was knocked unconscious and woke up in a pool of his own blood. He later underwent surgery to repair a skull fracture and

serious injuries to his right arm and hands. He has since appeared in public wearing a hat and a glove that covered his wounds. Earlier this month, a judge ruled that prosecutors had presented enough evidence during a preliminary hearing to move forward. Wednesday's appearance was another arraignment, a procedural move where the defendant enters a plea on the charges that will be brought to trial. DePape is still being held without bail; his state case returns to court Feb. 23. The public defender's office declined to comment. A federal case in which De-

Pape has also pleaded not guilty is also ongoing.

He is charged in state court with attempted murder, first-degree residential burglary, elder abuse, assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment and threatening a family member of a public official. During the preliminary hearing earlier this month, a San Francisco police investigator testified that DePape said there was "evil in Washington," and he was looking to harm Nancy Pelosi because she is second in line for the presidency. Authorities have said DePape was drawn to conspiracy theories. □



David DePape is shown in Berkeley, Calif., on Dec. 13, 2013.
Associated Press

Vatican says health of retired pope Benedict XVI 'worsening'

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The health of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has worsened due to his age, and doctors are constantly monitoring the frail 95-year-old's condition, the Vatican said Wednesday.

Vatican spokesperson Matteo Bruni said Pope Francis, who asked the faithful earlier Wednesday to pray for Benedict, went to visit his predecessor in the monastery on Vatican grounds where the retired pontiff has lived since retiring in February 2013.

"Regarding the health condition of the emeritus pope, for whom Pope Francis asked for prayers at the end of his general audience this morning, I can confirm that in the last hours, a worsening due to advanced age has happened," Bruni said in a written statement.

"The situation at the moment remains under control, constantly monitored by doctors," according to



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI arrives in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican to attend the beatification ceremony of Pope Paul VI, on Oct. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

the statement.

At the end of his customary Wednesday audience with the public in a Vatican auditorium, Francis departed from his prepared remarks to say that Benedict is "very sick" and asked the faithful to pray for the retired pontiff.

Francis didn't elaborate on Benedict's condition.

"I would like to ask you all for a special prayer for

Pope Emeritus Benedict, who is sustaining the church in silence," Francis said. "Remember him he is very ill asking the Lord to console him and to sustain him in this testimony to love for the church, until the end." After the hour-long audience, "Pope Francis went to the Mater Ecclesiae monastery to visit Benedict XVI. Let us all unite with him in prayer for the emeritus

pope," Bruni said.

Benedict, who was the first pontiff to resign in 600 years, has become increasingly frail in recent years as he dedicated his post-papacy life to prayer and meditation.

When Benedict turned 95 in April, his longtime secretary, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, said the retired pontiff was in good spirits, adding that "naturally he is physically relatively weak and fragile, but rather lucid."

Francis also paid a visit to Benedict at the monastery four months ago. The occasion was Francis' latest ceremony elevating churchmen to cardinal rank, and the new "princes of the church" accompanied him to the monastery for the brief greeting.

The Vatican released a photo at the time that showed a very thin-looking Benedict clasping Francis' hand as the current and past pontiff smiled at each other. □

ARUBA
OSTRICH
FARM



MUST VISIT!

- Fun Tour
- The best Shaved Ice
- Delicious lunch
- Fresh Fruits Smoothies
- Ice cold beer
- Unique local art Shop
- #1 Farmers Market

(Every 1st Sunday of the month)



Restaurant

RESERVATIONS IS RECOMMENDED

due to preparations and limited availability on ostrich/emu eggs.

Info@arubaostrichfarm.com

or Tel: 585-9630

OPEN DAILY:
10:00 – 4:00 pm
NO RESERVATION
NECESSARY FOR TOURS

Rain, floods in Philippines leave 29 dead, dozens missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Heavy rains and floods that devastated parts of the Philippines over the Christmas weekend have left at least 29 dead and 25 missing, the national disaster response agency said Wednesday.

More than 86,000 people were still in emergency shelters after bad weather disrupted Christmas celebrations in the eastern, central and southern Philippines.

Images from the southern province of Misamis Occidental showed rescuers carrying an elderly woman on a plastic chair as they waded through a flooded street. Some residents in the province were seen hanging on to floaters as coast guard rescuers pulled them

across chest-deep floods using a rope.

Eighteen of the 29 deaths were reported in the Northern Mindanao region, while 12 of the 25 missing were from Eastern Visayas in the central Philippines, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said.

Most of the deaths were from drowning while among the missing were fishermen whose boats capsized, the agency said.

Over 3,200 houses were damaged by the floods along with roads and bridges, and some areas were without power or water, the agency reported.

A shear line the point where warm and cold air

meet triggered rains in parts of the country, the state weather bureau said. A new low pressure area may bring moder-

ate to heavy rains within the next 24 hours to the same areas affected by the floods, it said. □



In this image provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, an elderly woman sits on a chair while being carried by coast guard personnel wading through floodwaters in Plaridel, Misamis Occidental province in the southern Philippines, Monday, Dec. 26, 2022.

Associated Press

North Korea's Kim lays out key goals to boost military power

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presented new plans to further bolster his military power next year at a meeting of top political officials, state media reported Wednesday, in an indication he'll continue his provocative run of weapons displays.

Kim's statement came as animosities with rival South Korea rose sharply this week with the South accusing the North of flying drones across the border for the first time in five years. This year, North Korea already performed a record number of missile tests in what experts call an attempt to modernize its arsenal and increase its leverage in future dealings with the United States.

During the Tuesday session at the ongoing plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party, Kim analyzed new security challenges in international politics and on the Korean Peninsula and clarified principles and directions to take in external relations and fights against enemies to protect national interests and sovereignty, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during a plenary meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea at the party headquarters in Pyongyang, North Korea Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022.

Kim "set forth new key goals for bolstering the self-reliant defense capability to be pushed ahead in 2023 under the multilaterally changing situation," KCNA said, without elaborating. Some observers say the new goals could be related to Kim's drive to expand his nuclear arsenal and acquire high-tech weapons systems such as multi-warhead missiles, a more agile long-range weapon, a spy satellite and advanced

drones. They say Kim would eventually aim to use his boosted nuclear power to force his rivals to accept the North as a legitimate nuclear state, a status he thinks is essential in getting international sanctions lifted.

On Monday, South Korea's military fired warning shots and launched fighter jets and helicopters, after detecting what it called five North Korean drones that violated the South's air

space. South Korea also flew three drones across the border in response, Defense Minister Lee Jong-Sup told lawmakers Wednesday.

The military apologized for failing to shoot down the drones and President Yoon Suk Yeol called for stronger air defenses and high-tech stealth drones to better monitor North Korea.

In a meeting with his advisers Wednesday, Yoon said South Korea must resolutely

retaliate against any provocation by North Korea, saying that will be the most powerful means to deter the North. Yoon also said South Korea must not be intimidated by North Korea's nuclear weapons, according to his spokesperson, Kim Eun-hye.

Some experts say the North Korean drone flights might have been designed to test South Korean and U.S. readiness and nullify a previous inter-Korean agreement to reduce tensions at front-line areas.

They say North Korea likely assessed its drones as a cheap yet effective method to cause security jitters and a domestic divide in South Korea.

Yoon, a conservative who took office in May, said Tuesday that South Korea has had little anti-drone training since 2017, a year when his liberal predecessor Moon Jae-in was inaugurated.

In an apparent effort to blame the allegedly lax air defenses on Moon's engagement policy toward North Korea, Yoon said, "I think our people must have seen well how dangerous a policy relying on the North's good faith and (peace) agreements would be." □

Associated Press

Chechens in Bosnia seek to dodge Russian draft, reach EU

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) —

A group of ethnic Chechens fleeing Russia arrived in Bosnia this week, hoping to use the Balkan country as a launchpad to reach the European Union and avoid getting sent to fight in Ukraine.

The group of some 50 people, predominantly from Russia's Chechnya region, congregated near Bosnia's northwestern border with EU-member Croatia, the Bosnian Security Ministry said Wednesday.

"They want to reach the European Union because, in their own words, they are fleeing military draft" in Russia, the ministry said in a statement.

Russians can enter Bosnia without a visa and are per-

mitted to stay in the country for a maximum of 90 days within a 180-day period. But to enter Croatia, which is set to join Europe's

visa-free travel zone, the Schengen Area, on Jan. 1, they must hold a valid visa. The ethnic Chechens gathered near the Malje-

vac border crossing, in the northwest Bosnia's Krajina region include families with children.

Many of the people waiting said they hoped to be allowed into Croatia. However, Croatian border guards mostly appeared to be turning them back.

One of the young men in the group, who identified himself only by his first name, Hadis, said he was traveling with his children and wanted to enter Croatia because the situation in Chechnya, amid Russia's war in Ukraine, was a "big problem." Hadis said his family first stopped in Istanbul after departing Russia and then traveled on to Bosnia.

According to Bosnian me-

dia, the Chechens arrived in Bosnia from Turkey and Serbia, the only two countries in Europe with direct flights from Russia during the war.

The Security Ministry said it would "continue to monitor the situation on the ground and gather detailed information from law enforcement agencies ... to propose appropriate measures to maintain a secure situation."

Bosnia became a bottleneck for Europe-bound migrants from the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa in 2015, when other nations in the Balkans and central Europe closed off previously established migration paths in the region. □



People wait in line on the border crossing Maljevac, between Bosnia and Croatia, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

ELMAR warns against lighting fireworks near high voltage wires

ORANJESTAD – Lighting fireworks and lights is a popular way to celebrate the year-end at home and during special gatherings. However, it is important for each and every one of us to do this responsibly and safely.

Through a press release, electricity company of Aruba, ELMAR advises to never light fireworks near high voltage wires. Electricity wires transport and distribute high voltage electricity, which can be very

dangerous if one comes into contact with one of these wires. If a firework lands on an electricity wire, it can cause an electric discharge which can result in grave injury or even death. Fireworks can also damage the electricity wires and provoke a disruption when electricity is needed the most.

To guarantee everyone's safety, ELMAR insists that it is very important to follow all security instructions when lighting fireworks and lights.



This includes reading and following all instructions on the packaging of each firework, and keeping a safe distance from high voltage

wires. Instructions vary from one product to another so it is very important to make sure of which precautions are needed for each of

them.

With safety in mind, everyone can enjoy a happy new year. □

Tourist bus stopping at Tres Trapi causes concern for nature in the area

ORANJESTAD – Yesterday a video circulating on social media showed a bus of a local tour company stopping in the area of Tres Trapi for visitors to get out and appreciate the beauty of the sea. This caused a lot of disgust because users considered that the buses are damaging the nature in the area.

A user posted the video on Facebook with a text expressing their disgust for what was taking place. "Really? You had to make Tres Trapi a stop for your massive tour buses? This little cove is now completely overrun (and congested) by multiple tour buses every day, spoiling the natural beauty and tranquility of



the area", he posted. "On top of it there's no space for your buses to park (or turn around), and their loud engines keep running while the tourists are gawking at the few swimmers and snorkelers as if they're zoo animals. You're damaging the Aruba experience with this tour stop at the fragile piece of our ecology. Please just keep driving by and don't stop here."

In the comment section of the video, which was viewed more than 4k times, local users joined in expressing their disgust? One user commented: "All

companies need to sit together and make things run better than this. The government needs to wake up and make money available to make changes so that there is more parking spaces without the need to destruct our nature."

Another indicated: "There is a nature and environment department, there is a minister of Nature, but there is zero practice in place to protect the fragile ecosystem. The offices are just there for show, a lot of false promises and illusions. They cannot and will not bring change. The short-term economic interests

of a few people are very powerful."

At the beginning of December, Aruba National Park Foundation (FPNA) held a press conference at Boca Catalina, which is close to Tres Trapi, to inform the local community about their concerns regarding Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). Contamination is one of the main causes for coral disease and it is very damaging for the environment in general.

Such big buses, aside from emitting a lot of CO2, are very heavy for the terrain on which they park, which is very fragile and can be damaged by this. □

The CBA raised the reserve requirement by 1.0 percentage point as of December 1, 2022

In line with the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) task to evaluate, determine, and provide transparency on the monetary policy actions of the Central Bank of Aruba (CBA), the CBA communicates the following.

During its meeting on November 22, 2022, the MPC decided to increase the reserve requirement from 24.0 percent to 25.0 percent as of December 1, 2022. Accordingly, commercial banks must hold a minimum balance at the CBA equal to 25.0 percent of their clients' short-term deposits. The decision to expand the reserve require-

ment to 25.0 percent was based mainly on the diminished pace of decline in the commercial banks' excess liquidity, as well as the still ample level of excess liquidity at the commercial

banks, which persists well above the pre-pandemic and precautionary levels.

The MPC considered the following information and analysis during its delibera-

tion:

International and official reserves

The international reserves, comprising the official reserves of the CBA and foreign reserves held by the commercial banks, grew by Afl. 42.0 million (Graph 1) on November 4, 2022, compared to end-December 2021. Official reserves contracted by Afl. 16.4 million, while the foreign reserves held by the commercial banks widened by Afl. 58.5 million. Consequently, on November 4, 2022, official and international reserves stood at Afl. 2,728.5 million and Afl. 3,171.6 million, respectively. For the rest of 2022, the CBA expects strengthened international and official reserves due to increased foreign exchange inflows from tourism.

Maintaining reserve adequacy is critical to keeping the fixed exchange rate between the Aruban florin and the US dollar. In this regard, the CBA anticipates international reserves to remain comfortably above the minimum required three months of current account payments. Among others, current account payments consist of import payments, interest payments made to investors, and foreign transfers such as money remittances by foreign workers.

Official reserves are forecasted to stay within an adequate range when benchmarked against the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Assessing Reserve Adequacy (ARA) metric. □

Table 1: Reserve benchmarks monitored in 2022

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
Current account coverage ratio ¹	8.8	8.7	9.4	9.3	9.2	8.8	8.8	8.4	7.8
IMF ARA Metric ²	110.	110.	123.	120.9	121.	118.8	128.9	127.2	116.9

¹ The number of months of current account payments covered by the international reserves.

² The ratio between the level of official reserves and the minimum adequate level (following IMF), in percent.



GOODBYE 2022 & A TOAST TO 2023

This New Year's Eve, Renaissance Aruba is offering a festive fine dining experience as we usher in a new year at Renaissance Convention Center. Take part in our annual New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Party with an open bar, live entertainment, and a fireworks show at Renaissance Festival Plaza.

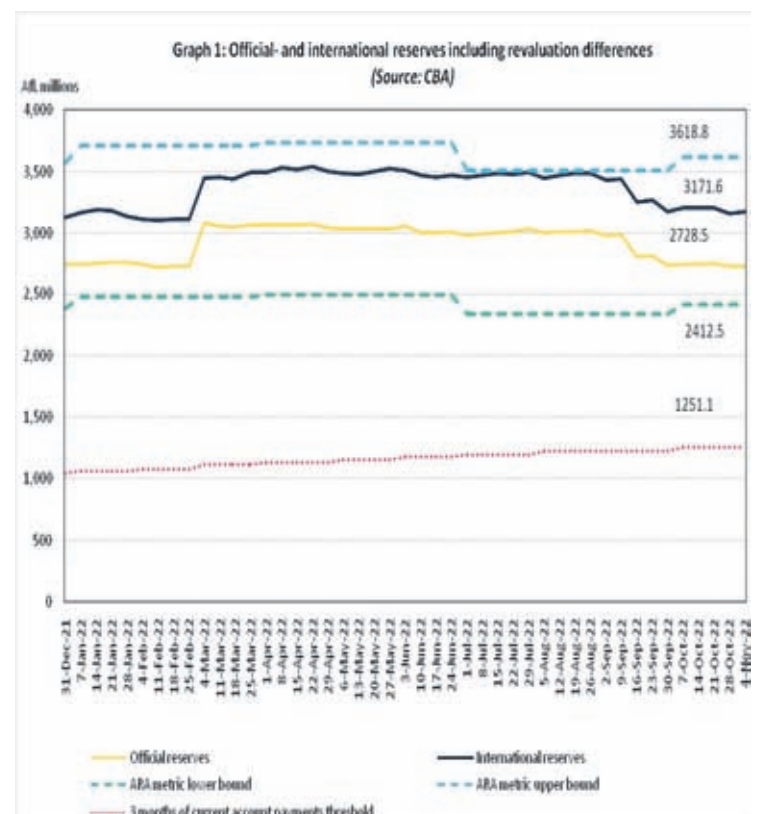
December 31st
Renaissance Convention Center
8:00PM–12:00AM

Adults.....\$200
 Kids ages 13–17.....\$100
 Kids ages 6–12.....\$60

Free Open Bar
 Live Entertainment
 Taxes & service charge included.

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW AT
RENARUBAEVENTS.COM

RENAISSANCE
 WIND CREEK ARUBA RESORT



BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY!

BONUS
B I N G O
THURSDAY!

Bonus 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!

\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play

\$1,500 in Cash Prizes

SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar

Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Can I have a ..., please?

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try a pastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive. Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. ☐



Aruba flies high even in the Midwest Blizzard thanks to our visitors

Aruba Today recently received a wonderful message from one of our visitors.

He wrote to us saying; "Thru the snow & bitter cold of the bizzard, the Aruban Flag proudly flies in Michigan, USA. As we wait to arrive in Aruba in 3 weeks and six days !!!"

Thank you for representing Aruba even from afar, Aruba can't wait to have you back! ☐



December Specials BOWLS

NOODLE BAR & TAKE OUT

Monday



20% OFF

Entire bill

Tuesday



Dollar to Florin

Wednesday



20% OFF

Noodle Soups

*applicable for the food, beer and wines

Thursday



20% OFF

Stir Fry

Friday



20% OFF

Izakaya

Dine in, Take out or Delivery !

Offer valid until December 31, 2022

BOWLS LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE ARUBA

Open every day for dine-in, takeout and delivery

Sunday - Thursday, 5 PM - 11:30 PM
Friday - Saturday, 5 PM - 12:00 AM

+297 280 0366

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 348 A, behind Fat Tuesdays

Scan



For Directions

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more

than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower



in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of

an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



FIFA Football for Schools project working with neighborhood centers and CEDE Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Recently, minister of Sport and Education, Endy Croes together with his colleague minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Rocco Tjon had a meeting with Mr. Randolph Lacle and Mrs. Dyane Wiersma of the Aruban Football Association. During the meeting they dialogued about a FIFA project, Football for Schools.

The idea behind this project is to introduce female football (soccer) to schools in Aruba. The goal of this project is to develop the football abilities of those who practice this sport, while at the same time contribute to the development of important life skills, among others, ability to communicate effectively, to solve problems, to think critically and creatively.



Football for Schools contains three main contributions, which is an app, material and financial incentive. Teachers who take part in this program can use an app that serves as a guide to give football lessons. Aside from this, the app has a variety of methods with the purpose of developing important skills in the lives of the players.

The target group is children

aged 4 to 14 years, and it is divided in different categories. The costs for this project are completely covered by FIFA.

Minister Croes and Tjon agreed to support this education and sport project which is set to begin in 2023 and works together with the directive of neighborhood centers – known in Aruba as Centro di Barrio – and CEDE Aruba to make this project possible. □

Women's Club of Aruba paid tribute to Life Member, Sheila Paul

ORANJESTAD – Gloria Sheila Paul-Thompson, better known as Sheila, became a member of Women's Club of Aruba (WCA) during the club year 1974-1975. She was a very active member in the Welfare commission, Limpi (clean) and Dress a Child.

In the Welfare commission, she had a lot of dedication to our senior citizens and every month she was present to entertain them with Bingo and to celebrate with them at (elderly care home) Huize Maris Stella in Savaneta and Cas di Cuido in San Nicolas.



And in the Dress a Child commission, she loved helping our children with their clothes for the year-end holidays.

She was always very helpful

everywhere she was needed. She worked tirelessly in the commission of Health, mainly in the project of breast exams that WCA used to organize for the people in San Nicolas, and

she was also a big contributor to the commission of AIDS Awareness.

She was an artistic and creative person when it came to crafts that the club

would make to sell during their Christmas Bazaar. She had a fantastic career in volunteerism. She was a woman of few words and lots of action. A great person!



In 2014 she was recognized as a Life Member of WCA, after being a member for more than forty years.

With this, WCA sends sincere condolences to her children, Paul-Thompson family, her WCA family and her dear friends. May our Life Member Sheila rest in peace in the Lord's kingdom.

Photographs are courtesy of Emperatriz Perdomo. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

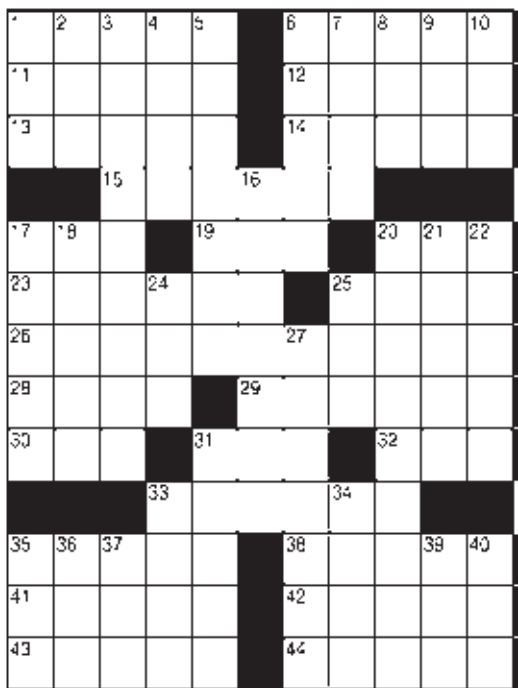
ACROSS 43 Ocean
1 Mideast trenches peninsula
6 Campaign paper goal

DOWN
11 Spring sign
12 Blown away
13 Choir member
14 Duo quadrupled
15 Facilitate
17 Phone bug
19 Pitcher's stat
20 "Platoon" setting
23 Too
25 Bedrock pet
26 Baseball game, usually
28 Tex-Mex snack
29 Belly features
30 Unbroken
31 Dress edge
32 "You there!"
33 He loved Roxane
35 Burglar's bane
38 Hawks
41 Ford's predecessor
42 Online message



Yesterday's answer

17 Scout's rider
31 Church songs
18 Bird-related
33 Riding whip
20 Half a round
34 Anchor's delivery
21 Trig topic
35 Plus
22 Like forest
36 Recline
24 Old auto drastically
25 Mil. unit
39 Pasture
27 Yoga studio
40 Pig's place
16 "The King and I" star



12-29

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

LN KS ZKQ ZBSV CWYQ FBIND.
KS ENKIN ZBSV CWYQ
UNBOVLWQD, KUR ANS NFNQC
UNZ CNKQ GBUR CWY K LNSSNQ

XKU. — LNUPKXBU GQKUJABU
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LAST YEAR'S WORDS BELONG TO LAST YEAR'S LANGUAGE, AND NEXT YEAR'S WORDS AWAIT ANOTHER VOICE. — T.S. ELIOT

6 ways to make extra money in retirement

By KATE ASHFORD
of NerdWallet

More than 1 in 4 retirees say they're spending more than they can afford, according to an October 2022 survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. With inflation at 7.1% in November, it's not surprising that savings aren't going as far as they used to. But there are ways to bring in extra income without taking on a full-time job. Some part-time gigs such as tutoring, pet sitting or helping with tax prep allow retirees to work a few hours at a time, and the extra income can make a big difference. Here are some ideas to consider.

PET SITTING AND DOG WALKING

If you have a fenced-in yard and the ability to care for someone else's furry family members, offering pet services can be lucrative and flexible. According to data analyzed by e-learning platform Preply, dog walking is the best-paid side hustle by average hourly wage.

"Not to mention, having canine companionship offers many health benefits," says consumer finance expert Andrea Woroch. "So pet sitting is a great way to get that without the high costs of owning your own dog."

TEACHING

One of the few perks of the pandemic is that online teaching and tutoring have flourished. You can set up shop on an online tutoring site like Preply or Wyzant, or an online teaching site such as Udemy. "Carve out a couple of hours on weeknights to tutor students online," Woroch says.

If you have the credentials,



In this Aug. 11, 2019 file photo, U.S. currency and credit cards sit on a table at a restaurant in New Orleans.

Associated Press

consider creating a college-level course that you could teach as an adjunct professor.

CONSULTING/FREELANCING

Retirees often have decades of valuable experience. Taking on project work can help you stay in the game on your own timeline.

"Consulting is a great way to continue staying relevant in your field and offering your insights and advice without having to go back to the office full time," says Jacques Famy Jr., a managing partner and chief marketing officer for merchant funding firm AdvancePoint Capital. "You can either offer the services through a firm or start your own side-hustle business."

FILLING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Depending on where you live, there may be ample opportunities to pick up side work with your town or city. Your local school may need occasional (or frequent — flu season!) substitute teachers, for instance. "Many K-12 schools can use the talents of retirees," says Janet Heller, president of the Michigan Col-

lege English Association. Heller points to the need for crossing guards, assistant coaches for athletic teams and recess supervisors, among other things. Contact your local school district to see what part-time spots may be available. □

Classifieds

House For Sale

Alto Vista

3 BR 2 bath with and apartment
Fully Furnished Ocean View
Price :\$550 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Houses For Sale

Great invest opportunity
Bubali Noord 10 min walk to Eagle beach
3 Bedroom 1 Bath
2 Bedroom 1 Bath
2 Bedroom 2 Bath
Studio
On a 1300m2 lease land
Price :\$525,280
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

216180

Casa Del Mar 2BR/2B:

Week2/Unit 1113 (18k);
Week 5/Unit 1315 (20k);
Week 8/Unit 1113 (19k);
Week 8/Unit 1409 (19k);
Week 10/Unit 1207 (17k);
Week 13/Unit 1509 (14k);
Week 14/Unit 1308 (14k); and,
Week 15/Unit 1317 (10k).
CDMOwner@gmail.com
US(Call/Text): (860)992-3890

216163

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

Classifieds

Paradise Beach Villas

Eagle beach
2 BR WK # 50 room # 209
Pool / Ocean view
Price :\$13 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

La Cabana Beach and casino

Eagle beach
Studio wk 50 room #429 B \$4 K
1BR wk 51 room # 329
A\$10K
Thursday check in
Call :011 -297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Marriott Surf Club

Palm Beach
Platinum Plus
2 BR WK # 51 and 52 Ocean
Front
Price :\$180 K both weeks
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach
2 BR WK # 50 room # 631/632
30 weeks remain \$18 K
1 BR WK # 52 room # 401
24 weeks remain \$ 10 ,750
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm Beach
2 BR 2 Bath WK # 51 and 52
Room # 672
Pent House 22 weeks remain
Price :\$ 30,750 each week
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Casa Del Mar

Eagle Beach
1 BR WK # 52 room # 1235
\$11 K
2 BR WK # 2 room # 1113
\$18 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
1 BR WK # 50,51,52,01
Room # 2357
33/24/24/28 weeks remain
Price :13 K each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Divi Village Golf

Eagle beach
2 BR WK # 51 room #
2205/2206
24 weeks remain \$ 15 K
1 BR WK # 51 and 52 room #
2360
31 /31 weeks remain \$ 13 K
each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
2 BR WK # 1,2,3 room #
2308/2309
24 weeks remain each
Price :\$15 K each
1 BR WK # 4 room # 2349
25 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Divi Village Golf

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 2 room # 4102 \$8 K
Studio WK # 3 room # 4205
\$7 K
21 weeks remain on each
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Divi Village

Eagle Beach
Studio WK # 1 room # 8201
19 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Studio WK # 4 room # 8203
31 weeks remain \$ 8 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Dutch Village

Eagle beach
Studio wk # 4 room # 129
22 weeks remain Non - Manda-
tory
Maintenance fee contract expire
2028
Price :\$6 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Renaissance Ocean Suites.

Private Islands
1 BR WK # 51 and 52 room
#2509
Pool/ ocean view
Price :\$30 K both units
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Renaissance Ocean Suites

Private Islands
1 BR WK # 51 and 52 room #
2314
Garden view \$12 K each
1 BR WK #51 room # 2530
Harbor / ocean view \$12 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Renaissance Ocean Suites

Private Islands
1 BR WK # 51 room #2131
\$12 K
Ground floor harbor and ocean
view
1 BR WK # 2 room # 2340
Harbor / ocean view \$ 10 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

For Rent

Eagle beach
Divi Village Golf
1 BR WK # 53 sleep 4
31 st to 7 Janaury \$2500
Studio WK # 1 sleep 4
7 to 14 Janaury 2023 \$1500
Renaissance Ocean Suites
1 BR wk 2 Sleep 4 \$1500
13 Janaury to 20 Janaury 2023

HTTA

Time -Share Resales
Are you interested in sell your
Time Share in Aruba
Contact the expert 37 Years
Doing honest business
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Condo For Sale

Tierra Del Sol
Wespunt
3 BR 2 1/2 Bath
Fully firnished ocean view
With and Garage
Price :\$475 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

House For Sale

Palm Beach
3 BR 2 Bath with and apartment
5 min walk to palm beach , res-
taurants and malls.
Price :\$550 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online



ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Eagle Tel. 587 9011
San Nicolas:
San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like
us on
Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

'The Best Man' wraps up storylines with new Peacock series

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

When the film "The Best Man" was released in 1999, featuring a cast of young, up-and-coming, attractive Black actors including Taye Diggs, Nia Long and Terrence Howard, it wasn't just a box office hit but also a fresh perspective on film, following the ups and downs of friendship, careers and love through the lens of young Black professionals.

"I remember reading that script and feeling, 'Oh, this is something I've never seen before. Black people represented in this way,'" recalled Diggs, who plays Harper, a successful author. "I had never seen a project where I saw myself."

Morris Chestnut, however, says at the time he was just thankful for the work and everything that came after is a welcome bonus.

"As an actor, you're glad to just get a job. You want to work. You want to get a job that pays," he said. "Starting out, you do things that no one ever sees. I had no idea it would still be around to this day."

Director, writer Malcom D. Lee reunited the cast for a 2013 sequel "The Best Man Holiday" which was also a success. Now, he's wrapping up the story with an eight-episode limited series



This image released by Peacock shows Terrence Howard, from left, Taye Diggs, Harold Perrineau and Morris Chestnut in a scene from "The Best Man: The Final Chapters."

Associated Press

on Peacock called "The Best Man: The Final Chapters."

Originally Lee envisioned possibly two more films to tie up the stories, but he says with a series, there's more real estate for storytelling. He used some of his ideas for movie sequels in the show and enjoyed being able to stretch that further and find additional stories for the characters.

"You get a little bit more time to just expand on their story and dig deeper into their home life, their career life, their personal struggles and triumphs. (The films) were the impetus, but it grew into something else." Regina Hall says the series gives each character an arc "as opposed to feeding one story, the collec-

tive. But to be honest, I would have enjoyed any iteration of it. I would have enjoyed it as a film.

"For me, it's just the characters and being honest to those relationships that they have and the love they have for each other and their trials and tribulations." More time was a welcome idea for Melissa De Sousa, who wanted her role of Shelby, a bossy reality TV star, to be fleshed out. "Not only was it necessary, it was requested. I said, 'Listen, if we're going to do this, it can't be the same thing over and over. You have to see all sides of her. You have to show why she is the way she is. You have to see a real woman with emotions and struggles, and fears,' and they did

that."

To transition to television Lee tapped "Insecure" writer and executive producer Dayna Lynne North to be co-showrunner.

"I've been a fan of the franchise for my whole adult life. I liken it to going from being in the stands, watching your favorite team, to LeBron (James) or somebody being like, 'Hey, you, fan. You want to come down and play with us, you know what I mean?' That's really what it felt like," said North. "It felt like going from my cheap seats to down on the field. ... It's really been an honor and super fun because I've loved these characters from the moment that I met them." While each character in "The Best Man" franchise

weaves a tangled web, the catalyst for drama in each iteration of "The Best Man" is Harper's novel, "Unfinished Business." Inspired by his friend group, the book reveals some explosive secrets, including how Harper once had a one-night stand with his best friend Lance (Morris Chestnut's) fiancée.

In "The Best Man Holiday," Lance is still bitter about revelations from the book. In the series, Harper could see "Unfinished Business" made into a film. He wants to get in front of any potential drama and get his friends' blessing for the project, and what better time to ask than at a destination wedding for their friend Quentin (Terrence Howard.)

Lee calls Harper's book "the magic prop."

"I was very strategic in the first 'Best Man' with trying to create something that was a hot button thing. I called it a magic prop because it kept on getting passed around to the friends and then it got into the wrong hands.

"The 'Unfinished Business' book certainly is causing drama this time around as well. Even though it's not what the series is about, it's about these folks and about their relationships, but it's a good engine." □



American Nobel laureate and "Beloved" author Toni Morrison smiles during a news conference at the Louvre Museum in Paris, Nov. 8, 2006.

Associated Press

Princeton University plans Toni Morrison tribute in 2023

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — A monthslong Toni Morrison tribute at Princeton University, where the Nobel laureate taught for 17 years, will range from music created and performed by Grammy-winning vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant to a spring lecture series and three-day symposium featuring author Edwidge Danticat, among others. The tribute will center on "Toni Morrison: Sites of Memory," an exhibition drawn from her archives that will explore her creative process

through manuscripts, correspondence between herself and other Black women, photographs, maps she drew while working on her acclaimed novel "Be-loved," rare drafts of her novel "Song of Solomon" and various unfinished projects. The exhibit runs at the Princeton University Library from Feb. 22 to June 4.

"In imagining this initiative from exhibition to symposium to partner projects I wanted to show the importance of the archive to understanding Morrison's

work and practice.

But I also wanted to show how this archive in particular is a site that opens up new lines of inquiry and inspires new kinds of collaboration," said curator Autumn Womack, assistant professor of English and African American Studies at Princeton, in a statement released Wednesday.

Morrison, who died in 2019 at age 88, was also known for such novels as "Sula," "The Bluest Eye" and "Jazz." She won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1993. □

Katie Ledecky earns AP female athlete of year for 2nd time

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**
AP National Writer

A change of scenery worked out just fine for Katie Ledecky.

Shifting coasts and coaches after last summer's Tokyo Olympics, the American swimmer turned in another stellar performance at the world championships, set a pair of world records and capped 2022 as The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year, selected by a panel of 40 sports writers and editors from news outlets across the country. Ledecky, who previously won the award in 2017, edged out American track star Sydney McLaughlin in balloting announced Wednesday.

The two tied in total points, but Ledecky got the nod based on 10 first-place votes to McLaughlin's nine. Basketball standout A'ja Wilson finished third.

"I know so many great athletes have won this honor," Ledecky said. "I'm really happy happy with how my year went, and also excited about the future."

Ledecky, who won her first Olympic gold medal in 2012 at age 15, has managed to stay on top in female freestyle swimming's longest pool events for the better part of a decade. She has held the long-course world record in both the 800- and 1,500-meter free since 2013, rarely facing a serious challenge



Gold medalist Katie Ledecky of the United States poses with her medal after the Women 800m Freestyle final at the 19th FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Friday, June 24, 2022.
Associated Press

in either of those grueling races.

At this year's world aquatics championships in Budapest, Hungary, Ledecky touched first in the 800 by more than 10 seconds and won the 1,500 by nearly 15 seconds. She also claimed gold in the 400 free and was part of the winning U.S. team in the 4x200 free relay.

Before 2022 was done, Ledecky added two more world records to her ledger. She set short-course marks in both the 800 and 1,500 a week apart even though she rarely competes in the 25-meter pool.

But the real enjoyment for

Ledecky comes when no one is cheering her on, when it's just her and her coaches and teammates, putting in the long, lonely hours of training.

"I might be one of the few swimmers who loves the training even more than the racing," she said. "Don't get me wrong: I love the racing, too. But I truly enjoy going to practice every day. I'm excited when I go to bed for practice in the morning."

Last year, after an Olympic performance that was a slight disappointment by her lofty standings, Ledecky left coach Greg Meehan and the Stanford University

team where she had competed and trained while earning a psychology degree.

Her top priority was getting closer to her family in the Washington, D.C., area. She was intrigued by the program that Anthony Nesty, a rising star in the coaching ranks, had built at the University of Florida. One of Nesty's freestylers, Bobby Finke, surprisingly swept gold in the men's 800 and 1,500 free at Tokyo. Another, Kieran Smith, captured an unexpected bronze.

So, Ledecky moved nearly 2,800 miles (4,500 kilometers) from Palo Alto, Califor-

nia, to Gainesville, Florida.

"It's been a lot of fun every day," she said. "This is the right place for me to be at this point in my career. I'm training really well and learning a lot along the way."

The shift to Nesty and a program where she usually trains with the men seems to have pushed the 25-year-old Ledecky to even greater heights.

Nesty said one of his main challenges is making sure Ledecky doesn't train too hard.

"She needs to understand that once you get older, the body is different," the coach said. "I have to tell her, 'Katie, you've got understand you're not 18 anymore.' The body will get tired. When it gets tired, it's OK to throttle back a little bit."

Moving to Florida has led to other changes.

Always a bit reserved, Ledecky now seems far more willing to speak up even holding her own in good-natured trash talk with her male teammates, according to Nesty.

"This group is a very competitive group, a fun group and, at times, pretty chatty," he said. "It seems to have made her pretty chatty."

You've gotta be with our group. I think our group has kind of made her come out of her shell a little bit."

Ledecky agreed. □



Cleveland Browns defensive end Jadeveon Clowney during the first half of an NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Houston, Dec. 4, 2022, in Houston.

Associated Press

Browns DE Jadeveon Clowney back from concussion, practicing

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland Browns defensive end Jadeveon Clowney was back at practice Wednesday after missing one game with a concussion while starting left tackle Jeddrick Wills Jr. sat out with a back issue. Clowney didn't play in last week's 17-10 loss to New Orleans after sustaining a head injury on Dec. 17 against Baltimore. Coach Kevin Stefanski said Clowney is "getting better"

as the Browns (6-9), who were eliminated from post-season contention with their loss to the Saints, prepare to face the Washington Commanders (7-7-1) on the road Sunday.

Clowney has been slowed by an ankle injury and the concussion and has just two sacks this season. Rookie Alex Wright started in his place last week.

A first-round pick in 2020, Wills has started all 16

games in his third season. Stefanski said Wills is "working through something" and indicated it's too early to know if he'll be available to play. James Hudson would be an option in Wills is out. Also, Pro Bowl defensive end Myles Garrett, left guard Joel Bitonio and wide receiver Amari Cooper were on stationary bikes during the portion of practice open to reporters. □

Analysis: Doncic, Jokic set the pace; wild MVP race looming

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Luka Doncic had 60 points and 21 rebounds and 10 assists on Tuesday, a stat line never seen before in NBA history. Nikola Jokic had 41 points and 15 rebounds and 15 assists on Sunday, a stat line that was managed on only two other occasions.

Two amazing games without a single dunk.

The two best players in the NBA right now and likely the current frontrunners in the MVP race do not play with LeBron James' strength and force, or with Michael Jordan's acrobatic creativity, or with Wilt Chamberlain's ability to just overmatch anyone who dared to stand near his path. They do not put on



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) celebrates scoring the game-tying basket in front of teammate Christian Wood (35) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in Dallas, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

the shooting and dribbling display of a Stephen Curry, or glide from one end of

the floor to the other like Giannis Antetokounmpo, or make scoring look as easy

as Kevin Durant does. Doncic and Jokic do it differently. They dominate

by making the game get played at their pace. They do what they want, when they want, almost always making the smartest play. Play off them, and they shoot the midrange or the 3. Play up on them, and they'll use their bulldozing ability to create just enough space for a move or the right pass.

"He's special," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said of Doncic's latest masterpiece. "The history of the game is written by the players, and that was written again ... Luka doing something that's never been done before. It's hard to do."

Forget the numbers for a second. Consider how Doncic got Tuesday's game into overtime. The Mavericks were down by nine with 27 seconds left in regulation. No team in the last 26 years since play-by-play records of games began getting tracked digitally had outscored an opponent by nine points in the last 27 seconds of a fourth quarter, according to SportRadar.

The Mavs did it, with a Luka Miracle finishing it off. Down by three with 4.2 seconds left in regulation and at the foul line, Doncic made the first free throw and intentionally missed the second. The Knicks botched two tries at controlling the rebound, Doncic leaped for the ball and shot a 10-footer all in the same motion. It went in, the game went to overtime and history was made. Being prepared to take advantage of an opportunity is how players make their own luck.

It's hard to win the MVP award, harder still to win it twice and Jokic is going to find out how difficult it is to win it three consecutive years. Doc Rivers has said many times that players like Jordan or James would have more MVP's if not for voter fatigue and people simply getting tired of the same person winning every year. He's right, and Jokic will probably have to deal with some of that when the ballots get sent in next April. □

Everyday triple points

Totally sanitized table and chips.

ORCHID CASINO

Located in the Riu Antillas (formerly the Westin)
welcomes you to **RESERVE YOUR OWN PRIVATE TABLE**
for you and your party.

RESERVE your Private Table

**Call 525 7777 ext.209
to make a reservation.**